

## Nineteenth-Century British Timeline (rev. 8/22/2011)

*adapted from Political & Economic History of Great Britain from the Civil War to the Twentieth Century Glenn Everett, Associate Professor of English, University of Tennessee at Marti, the Victorian Web: <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/histov.html>, Broadview Anthology of British Literature Texts and Contexts Chart [http://www.broadviewpress.com/babl/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=82](http://www.broadviewpress.com/babl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=50&Itemid=82)*

1789	Bastille falls; French Revolution begins.
1791-2	Paine, <i>The Rights of Man</i> .
1792	Reign of Terror in France.
1793	Louis XVI executed in France. England and France at war.
1794	Execution of Robespierre ends the Reign of Terror.
1796	Invasion of England threatened.
1798	Battle of the Nile. First Edition of <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> .
1799	Napoleon named First Consul of France.
1801	Union of Great Britain and Ireland.
1804	Napoleon declared Emperor.
1805	Battle of Trafalgar.
1809	Napoleon captures Vienna.
1811	Prince of Wales named Regent to act for George III, now insane.
1811-12	Luddite riots in the North and the Midlands. Laborers attack factories and break up the machines which they fear will replace them.
1812	Napoleon invades Russia.
1812-14	War of 1812 between England and the United States.
1814	Treaty of Ghent ends Anglo-U.S. War. England and allies invade France. Napoleon exiled to Elba.
1815	Napoleon escapes Elba. Battle of Waterloo; Napoleon exiled to St. Helena in the South Atlantic. Corn Laws passed.
1819	"Peterloo" massacre of Corn Law protestors.
1820	George III dies; succeeded by Prince Regent as George IV.
1821	Napoleon dies.
1822	Classical Tripos established at Cambridge.
1823	London Mechanics Institute founded.
1827	Thomas Arnold appointed to Rugby.
1829	Catholic Emancipation Act. Peel establishes the Metropolitan Police.
1830	George IV dies; his brother William IV succeeds. Manchester - Liverpool Railway (first in England).
1832	First Reform Bill: adds £10/year householders to the voting rolls and reapportions Parliamentary representation much more fairly, doing away with most "rotten" and "pocket" boroughs. Triples electorate, to 750,000. Perhaps one man in six is now enfranchised.[GE]
1833	British Emancipation Act. Factory Act (children under nine can't work). Oxford Movement begins.
1834	New Poor Law. Houses of Parliament burn down. Late 1830s first of the Parliamentary "Blue Books"—facts and figures about England compiled by the Royal Commissioners.
1836-48	Chartist movement. Botanical Society Founded
1837	William IV dies; succeeded by his niece, Victoria.
1838	Regular Atlantic steamship service begins.
1839	Free Trade League founded. Daguerreotype and Fox Talbot negative process discovered. Infant Custody Bill ends absolute control of children by fathers in divorce/separation cases. Anglo Chinese Opium Wars begin (end 1860).
1840	Queen Victoria marries her cousin Albert, who becomes Prince Consort. S.F.B. Morse invents the telegraph. Grammar Schools Act.
1842	Chartist Riots. Copyright Act. Charles Edward Mundie begins lending books.
1843	<i>The Economist Weekly Commercial Times</i> begins circulation.
1845-9	Anglo-Sikh wars.
1845-6	Potato Failure in Europe; starvation in Ireland. Corn Laws repealed (1846). Newman becomes Catholic (45).
1847	Ten Hours Act (women and children can only work 10 hours a day). Chloroform used as anesthetic
1848	Revolutions in Europe. Public Health Act. Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.
1849	Gold discovered in California and Australia. Bedford College for Women established in London.

1850	Telegraph cable laid under English Channel. Wordsworth dies; Tennyson succeeds him as Poet Laureate. Catholic hierarchy re-established in England.
1851	Great Exhibition ("Crystal Palace"). Population of United Kingdom at 21 million.
1853-6	Crimean War. Working men's College founded in London.
1855	Livingston discovers Victoria Falls. Civil Service Commissioners appointed.
1857-8	The Mutiny (India). Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition.
1858	First Atlantic cable laid.
1859	<i>On the Origin of Species</i>
1860	Garibaldi takes Naples; unification of Italy. Huxley-Wilberforce debate at Oxford
1861	Albert dies; Victoria retires into mourning.[AT]
1861-5	American Civil War.
1862	Bismarck becomes Prussian premier.
1864	Geneva Convention establishes Red Cross. Pasteur invents pasteurization.
1865	Lister introduces anti-septic to surgery.
1866	Italy defeated by Austria. Telegraph cable laid under the Atlantic.
1867	Second Reform Bill: doubles electorate--enfranchises perhaps one man in three. South African diamond fields discovered. Fenian rising in Ireland. Typewriter invented.
1868	Public hangings abolished
1869	Suez Canal opened. Union Pacific Railway completed in U.S.
1870	Forster's Elementary Education Act establishes School Boards. Vatican Council (establishes the infallibility of the Pope). Married Women's Property Act (1870)
1870-1	Franco-Prussian War.
1871	University Tests Act removes religious tests at Oxford and Cambridge. Trade unions legalized. Newcastle engineers strike for a nine-hour day. Germany unified.
1873	Population of the United Kingdom at 26 million (France 36 million).
1874	First Impressionist exhibition in Paris.
1876	Victoria named Empress of India. Edison invents the phonograph. Bell invents telephone. Compulsory school attendance in Great Britain.
1877	Transvaal annexed.
1878	Ruskin-Whistler libel trial.
1879	Somerville and Lady Margaret Colleges (for women) founded at Oxford. Zulu war.
1880	War with Transvaal.
1881	Cambridge Tripos exams opened to women. Rational Dress Society Founded.
1882	Triple Alliance (Germany, Italy, and Austria). Married Women's Property Act enables women to buy, own, and sell property, and to keep their own earnings.
1883	"Oom Paul" Kruger named president of the South African Republic. Fabian Society founded. Mahdi Rebellion in the Sudan.
1884	Third Reform Act: universal male suffrage in England.
1886	First (Irish) Home Rule bill rejected.
1887	Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.
1888	Jack the Ripper murders in the East End of London.
1889	London dock workers and match girls strike for 6d./hour. Prevention of cruelty to children act.
1890	Parnell-O'Shea divorce case ends P's influence; no Home Rule for Ireland. London's 1st underground railway
1894	Dreyfus trial in France.
1895	U.S. equals the U.K.'s industrial output.
1897	Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.
1898-99	Spanish-American War.
1899-02	Boer war.
1901	Victoria dies; Edward Prince of Wales succeeds. McKinley assassinated, succeeded by Roosevelt.